



Charybdis hellerii

Portunid crab

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - Could potentially compete with native brachyuran crabs, particularly with other portunids such as *Callinectes* spp. for food and habitat in the Indian River Lagoon
2. Invasive potential
 - Possible that this species was introduced in one or more sites and subsequently dispersed via larval stages to various other coastal environments in the (USA Gulf coast) region (Gomez and Martinez-Iglesias, 1990)
 - Most likely human assisted transport of larvae in ballast water
3. Geographic extent
 - Regionally patchy
4. Management difficulty
 - Quarantine ships ballast water, monitor live animal trade, detailed inspections. Even with controls in place the species has still managed to invade new territory



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Indo-Pacific region
2. Introduced: Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Florida, Caribbean, Hawai'i
3. Habitats
 - Marine, coastland, coral reefs, intertidal zones, mangroves
 - Prefers soft bottom and also found in rocky bottom and among live coral
 - Ranges from intertidal to 50 m in depth

Invasion Pathways

1. Canals that connect water ways - Suez Canal
2. Natural spread - oceanic drift
3. Hull/Surface fouling - accidental

Non-Native Locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 65- Greater Antilles
4. 70- Floridian
5. 152- Hawaiian Islands

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/serc/images/photo%20gallery/Charybdis%20hellerii.jpg>